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SUBJECT Clash with Turkmen Nationalists

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1. There was a clash between Turkmen nationalists, under a leader named Mervan Kusertay, and a detachment of Soviet troops at Pendje/sig/ southeast of Merv. The Soviet troops were on the trail of guerrillas. The Soviet soldiers had to withdraw, with losses. The guerrillas were equipped with Soviet automatic arms, stolen from Soviet military depots.
2. Another detachment of troops was sent to fight the nationalists, who have the support of the local population.

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